METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR RANKING SERVICES IN
A WEB SERVICES ARCHITECTURE

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0100]   A method includes ranking services in a web services architecture
and a web services architecture. The web services architecture has a
hierarchy of services with a root originating service requestor and a service
of a first level in the hierarchy calling a service of a lower level. The
originating service requestor indicates a preference regarding one or more
services and a ranking machine provides a choice algorithm based on the
preference. The originating service requestor invokes services of one or
more levels of hierarchy. At each level of the hierarchy, a service uses a
directory to find a set of possible lower-level services and the ranking
machine applies the choice algorithm to the set of possible lower-level
services. In one embodiment, the set of possible lower-level services is
referred to the ranking machine from the directory and a preferred sequence
is returned by the ranking machine to the directory.

GB920020050US1